

SUBJECTS.

Dewan—So you suggest that all *puthuval* registry should be stopped till the confusion in the land records is cleared up, *i. e.*, you want to work up from where the Survey Department left us up to the date of the G. O. of Dhanu 1085? I shall consider that.

Member—According to the present Rules, those who effect improvements on *puthuval* lands can have the same registered in their names. In a Circular of 1080, it has been stated that, in spite of improvements effected on a land, the prior applicant for it is entitled to have it. This conflict leads to hardship.

Dewan—The Circular has to be interpreted along with the Puthuval Rules.

Member—According to the existing practice, no paths are allowed, in registering *puthuval* lands. The lands surveyed and registered first have had no pathways provided; hence the difficulty to acquire lands further in. The Member therefore prayed that small pathways might be ordered to be provided in connection with the registry of *puthuval* lands.

Dewan's reply.—I shall refer the whole question to the Peishkar. I am very glad to see that the Member has so carefully studied his question.

4. Whether Government have the right to sell one estate for the arrears of tax due on another, both being registered in the name of one owner.

Mr. D. G. Cameron (Member, South Travancore Planters' Association) asked if Government could sell one property for the arrears of tax due on another. The Member said that such an arrangement tended to much hardship. The Member said that a case like this had actually occurred and that he was not aware of such a law in any other country.

Dewan's reply.—Government have the right to sell any property of a defaulter, which they can lay their hands on and which is of some value, in order to recover their dues, if they find that the property, the tax for which has fallen in arrears, will not fetch the full amount due. This is the law in British India also. The particular case you refer to will be decided on its merits in due course.

5. That Government should recognise the alienations of Kandukrishi lands already made.

Mr. Krishnan Narayanan (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) said that the lands attached to the Ambalapuzha Kandukrishi comprised 95,000 paras of wet land and 150 gardens. Most of these lands had been alienated by the original registry holders on sale, mortgage &c., in favour of others. Some Kandukrishi lands had been relinquished by their original holders and some had passed from the hands of the original holders under the decrees of the Civil

SUBJECTS.

Courts. Thus, these lands have almost become the properties of the present holders. The Settlement Department registered many Kandukrishi lands in the names of persons other than the original holders. The present holders having in some cases converted their lands into gardens and having set up buildings at a heavy cost, it would be a hardship if their ownership were not recognised. He therefore requested that Government might be pleased to declare that Kandukrishi lands were alienable.

Dewan's reply.—As a matter of policy, if Government find a man for a long time in the enjoyment of a Kandukrishi land, they do not eject him, because of the inconvenience and hardship he will be put to, though Government have the right to do it. Government will continue the policy, but a general order, such as is sought for, cannot be given. Successive Dewans have declared that Kandukrishi lands are Crown lands, which are at the absolute disposal of Government.

6. The difficulties of punja cultivation and how to remedy them.

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the method of cultivating *punja* lands differed considerably from the cultivation of paddy in South Travancore. In the former case, a large volume of water had to be drained and the plot of ground made fit for sowing paddy, whereas in the latter case the land was always ready for cultivation. The materials required for putting up bunds for the *punja* lands were not easily obtainable. Much difficulty was experienced on account of the absence of drainage canals to carry off the surplus water. These *punja* lands entirely depended upon natural sources of manure; and the absence of drainage canals communicating with rivers placed many acres of *punja* land beyond the reach of such manures. The ryots, not being rich, began their work with borrowed capital; and besides, they had to protect their fields from the action of high tides. The Member requested that Government might be pleased to order the construction of new drainage canals and the introduction of Grain Banks and Co-operative Credit Societies.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. Hardship caused by realising wet assessment on nanjamel-punja lands.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Aiyar (Member, Shencotta Taluk) said that half the area of wet lands in Shencotta was fit only for dry cultivation during the Kanni season on account of the want of irrigational facilities. In 1082, the people appealed to Government and remission was granted for that year only, though the appeal was for a general remission of tax for the Kanni crop. Hence the